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Kansas City, Missouri

January 22, 1937

Dearest Ewing:

Well, your last two letters intended to stir up the Judge, actually produced just the opposite results. They made him sore. He didn't want to go to Alyward, or do anything about my matter, so he told me in an hour's conversation yesterday that now you had taken out of his hands the only thing in the world that he might have done; that you didn't want me kept here under political influence. Therefore, there was nothing to do but leave without his uttering another word. He said he was writing you congratulating you upon your view point. Of course, you will detect the sarcasm in that.

He said you wanted him to threaten to resign so that would scare them up here, and retain me. do not think you meant that. It sounded to me as if you really intended for him to actually resign. He said to resign would make him ridiculous in the eyes of the people; that as long as no one came to him and tried to influence his opinions, he would not consider the court dominated politically. Yet, the day before he told me that our "Court had become entirely political since Judge Shain came into it, and that to get in one had to have a politician's endorsement.

Also, he is glad you have absolved him from doing what he did not want to do; he mentioned the fact to me that four years from now he would have to himself be endorsed by these same politicians (which he will not see in my behalf ) to himself be reelected. Is that consistent?

Kitchen did go to see Alyward, and the first thing he asked him was: "Who put her there?" Kitchen said he did not know as I was here when he came, but that he thought Judge Bland was responsible. Alyward then said, "Well, why doesn't Bland come to me and talk it over?" So you see the predicament in which that leaves things.

I mentioned to Judge Bland that Stratton be appointed Reporter since Alyward does not care for it. He said if Alyward didn't want the place he would have resigned; that nobody would deliberately throw away \$2000 a year even if they had plenty of money; that Alyward was a friend of his and he wanted him to continue to be.

I suggested that since Stratton had no duties and was a trouble maker in more ways than one, that he be the one dispensed with. Judge said he would not suggest that anyone lose their job. As to any irregularities etc. he could not vouch for that since none of it had come under his personal observation. Mrs. Mason has attempted for a couple of years to point out certain things to the Judge but he has shut her up every time. I suppose he thinks if he doesn't know about these things he cannot be expected to do anything about them. Mrs. Mason, as well as others, knows as much about this office as I do.

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I suggested that Judge take up with the other judges that as a courtesy to him, I be allowed to remain here until his present terms expires. He said that was impossible as legislature meets right away and the judges want to cut down the expenses of the court which he, himself, thought excessive.

I suggested that I be given a six month's extension, but he said he had already asked them to keep me, in two conversations with the judges, and since they had said "No," it was a closed matter.

He said you had a false idea of the Pendergast faction; that Judge Shain told him that he was approached three years ago by job-seeking people saying they were retaining a friend of E. Y. Mitchell's and that he, Judge Bland, thought JUDGE SHAIN, had done very well to keep me here under those circumstances. He also said he had hoped you would be able to offer a helpful suggestion, but so far all you had suggested was that he resign, an impossible and ridiculous idea. He constantly reminded me that he must run again in four years, and the inference was that he did not feel like crossing anybody

because of that. I am much afraid have let him know too much about your financial condition (and he has no hope of future reward) as he stated that Alyward was a very good friend of is, too, and your influence was at an end.

A real estate man who sold Judge Bland a farm recently, told me that the Judge was considered quite well-to-do, and with his saving methods and 20 years at \$500 per month, no doubt he is. He is feeling quite smug and satisfied so why should he excite himself or raise a possible criticism from some others?

He asked me not to tell anyone about any mis-conduct around here as I should remember that he was a member of the court, and that he hoped to continue to be for another term.

Judge also said a number of other things which would make you furious, but please, for my sake, don't rile him up further or break with him until we see how I am coming out. It is no worse for me to remain here under political influence than it is for him, and he is ALREADY AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDER POLITICAL INFLUENCE AS LONG AS HE IS A JUDGE OF THIS COURT. It certainly means more to me than it does to him so why discriminate against me?

Kitchen says he firmly believes that all that is necessary is for Judge to go to Alyward, who is also a member of our court, and tell him the truth. Jones said to Kitchen: "Well, since Mitchell has caused her to lose her job here, let's see how good he is at finding her another," so you see that has been used against me.

You can plainly see that Judge Bland has no backbone to assert himself here, so that is the only thing left to do. Whether I am in or out of here my political influence is nill, so why split hairs when I am the only one who will suffer by it?" Besides, seeing Alyward is not exactly political influence as he is a member of our court and has authority in his own name. As I last wrote you, Judge Bland will

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not make a single further effort in my behalf because he is afraid of political criticism, but if you would request him to talk it over with Alyward, keeping your name out of it, it might do some good. As far as I can see that is the only thing on earth that would help me and he will not do that unless you say to do it. Will you do this?

Always your same,

Marie

P.S. My typewriter has been out of alignment for days but Jones will not permit me to call the repair man. He said he would look after it, but of course, he does not intend to. If I can get through all this without a break-down it will be a miracle. I am having to go to the doctor all the time to keep going.

M.P.